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DISTRICT 347 BOARD REPORT

April 7, 2015

Willmar Community Education & Recreation

Steve Brisendine, Director

Community Education & Recreation has had a very busy month. Brad Bonk our long time Adult Recreation Coordinator took a position in Douglas County recently. We would like to thank Brad for his years of service and talents that he brought to our organization and wish him well. We are very pleased to announce that Casey Hagert will be starting his position with WCER April 14. With this change we have shuffled duties around to try and play to the strengths of our staff. Please join me in welcoming Casey to our team. The Spring/Summer catalog of offerings will be sent out to community April 15th. We are excited to bring these offerings to our residents.

Other projects that our department has been working on include many bike/trail related activities. We are pleased to announce the unveiling of a Yellow Bike Share program to begin in May. This free Bike Share program is an activity that we hope will assist us in our future application to become a Bike Friendly Community. We have enlisted the services of the Minnesota Bike Alliance-Bike MN to guide us through this application process. As part of their role in this process they will do an inventory of our bike infrastructure and programs to offer advice on increasing our biking assets.

Tammy Rudningen-Youth/Adult Enrichment Coordinator

The West Central Tribune featured my high school Youth Service class in a two page color spread on Saturday, March 21. It was fun to see the good news about the good things happening in the community.

There are 49 kids signed up for the ZAP the ACT workshop on April 8 & 9. This is the highest number of participants we have had since we started doing this workshop over a decade ago. We had to move the class to a bigger room!

The WCER Summer Activity Brochure is scheduled to be distributed during the week of April 15. There are several new offerings included for people of all ages.

Pam Vruwink-Aquatics/Wellness Coordinator

We had 23 children participate in our semi-private swim lessons this winter. Our spring session of swim lessons with New London/Spicer youth began this week with 28 participants. A youth fitness class was offered at Roosevelt and the Middle School in March, 29 kids participated.

Looking forward to summer programs and getting ready for a great season at the DOAC.

Rob Baumgarn- Facilities and Youth/Adult Sport Coordinator

Facilities: The request for building usage has been decreasing, but the managing of field space has been increasing with the warmer temperatures. There has been more of a demand for fields this year. There is a baseball program that many baseball teams are going towards which in turns more field requests.

Spring also brings music/dance concerts. WEAC will be busy the end of April and May with public and school concerts (Barber Shop, The Main Pointe, Colleen School of Dance and Just for Kix). Also, the Senior High will be busy with prom and graduation setup. The City Auditorium is still under construction. There was damage to the gym floor that is delaying the re-opening of the facility. Hopefully we can re-open the building as soon as we can for the public to use.

Adult Recreation: We finished up the winter season for Volleyball, Adult Hockey and Men's Basketball.

Number of Volleyball Teams: Men-9, Womens-23 Co-Rec 34

Number of Adult Hockey Teams: 8

Number of Men's Basketball Teams: 15

We also hosted a Women Volleyball Tourney on Feb 28th. We had 14 teams.

Youth Recreation: Youth hockey continues to grow. We have great leadership and direction in the program (Matt Dawson and Jim Anderson). We had a total of 88 skaters this year. With their vision, the program will be in great hands and continue to grow.

Wrestling: We had 41 wrestlers this season with many of them making it to the state competition. This year we had a youth coach that focused on proper technique and fundamentals. We received great feedback from the wrestlers. We are currently offering a "freestyle" course for the surrounding communities. This gives students another opportunity to wrestle and learn different techniques.

Special Olympics: We finished up our first season with Special Olympic basketball. We had 2 teams with a total of 9 players. Both teams took 1st place in there brackets at the State Tourney in late March 28th. We will be starting our track season here in the middle of April.

Jodi Wambeke-Early Childhood Family Programs Coordinator

Past and upcoming Events:

March YMCA Child Care	March 26
April Week of Young Child	April 14
Books and Baseball with The Stinger's	June 7

Early Childhood Family Programs:

- Summer brochure is coming out in April. ECFE has additional classes offered into June.
- Preschool registration is starting this month. We will offer 10 sections of preschool this fall. Parents can choose from our one section of all day every day or nine sections of ½ day programming.
- We have been selected to be a MN Reading Corp site for 2015-2016 school year.
- We are in process of developing a transition plan for children and families. We are currently looking at the various ways; we currently help with transitions in the following connection areas: child to school, family to school, school to community and school-to-school.

Willmar Children's Cabinet/ Initiative

- Community needs survey is out and will be open until Friday, April 24. Link is on Districts websites, has sent out to community partners and will be listed in the Trib. Paper copies will also be available for families as well.
- Born Learning Trail is on order with a June goal for 'grand opening'. This is a collaborative effort with ECI, WCER, United Way and City of Willmar.
- Cultural Liaisons are working with Grow Mobile on setting up a downtown outreach site at the Willmar Public Library.

Ann Trochlil-Community Engagement Specialist

- Since our winter benchmark in early February, our interventionist and Reading Corps tutors are reporting that 16% of those receiving literacy interventions in school readiness preschool have made enough progress to be on target or close to target and as a result have been tested out of interventions. As a result of this progress more students are having to opportunity to receive intervention support.
- Additional site wide efforts to build vocabulary have been implemented and strategies for parents to use at home were discussed at winter conferences.

Julie Mischke-Glacial Lakes ABE Consortia Manager

Glacial Lakes Adult Education has been accepted to be one of the thirteen pilot sites for the MDE issued Minnesota Standard Adult Diploma, Minnesota Statute 124D.52 (subd.8,b). This is an opportunity for a third pathway for Minnesota adults over the age of 21 year and it is unique to the traditional K-12 or GED. It is aligned to meet Minnesota's educational standards. The competencies for the Minnesota State Adult Diploma are based on Minnesota's current K-12 graduation standards and embed:

- College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) for Adult Education
- Academic, Career and Employability Skills (ACES) Transitions Integration Framework and
- Northstar Digital Literacy Standards

Minnesota State Adult Diploma Competency Domains to be completed:

- A. English Language Arts
- B. Mathematics
- C. Career Development and Employability Skills, including Digital Literacy Skills
- D. Social Studies
- E. Science

Students must participate in ABE to achieve the diploma and will demonstrate knowledge and skills. The competencies are demonstrated to show students are well prepared and qualified for employers and post-secondary.

Consortium Program Manager, Julie Mischke has been on the development and implementation team for the MN Adult Diploma.

Laura Morales-Willmar ABE Site Coordinator

We are at capacity in three out of our five levels of ESL with the others being very close. We have 119 students enrolled in our day classes and another 29 attending evening classes so far this month.

Due to these increasing numbers, ABE was approved to hire a Somali-speaking para. Her name is Mouna Kahin, she started on April 6th and has been a tremendous help already. Assuring that our students have a positive experience at ABE is of utmost importance and we believe that Mouna will help ensure that for everyone.

Concurrently, we are in the process of hiring more instructors for our evening programming and finding subs for our day classes.

We finished off the month of February with a celebration of the 14 students who graduated from our first Intro to Computers course, of which 10 had perfect attendance for all 8 weeks of the class. Students came early to the last class on Friday night and brought foods from all of their home countries from Ethiopia to El Salvador to Lefse from Willmar!